

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 MCE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /113 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:CJ  
APPROVED BY AF HARROP  
AF/E:RPOST

-----112265 220319Z /73

O R 220127Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET, US, SO

SUBJECT: SHIPMENT OF MILITARY ITEMS TO ETHIOPIA

1. DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO RELEASE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON QUESTION OF MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ETHIOPIA TO PRESS THIS WEEK:

QTE THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATED OFTEN THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF SUPPLYING ARMS TO EITHER ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA WHILE THE OGADEN CONFLICT LASTS. WE HAVE NOT GIVEN WEAPONS TO SOMALIA AND OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA IS TERMINATED. NEVERTHELESS, AT THE TIME OF THE TERMINATION OF OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA IN APRIL , 1977, THERE WERE SOME SPARE PARTS AND OTHER ITEMS VALUED AT NEARLY DOLS 4 MILLION WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO ETHIOPIA'S DESIGNATED FREIGHT FORWARDER AND ON WHICH LEGAL TITLE HAD PASSED TO ETHIOPIA PLUS TWO PATROL BOATS VALUED AT DOLS 3 MILLION WHICH REPRESENTED A PURELY COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AN ORDERLY TERMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP, THE DECISION WAS TAKEN LAST JUNE TO PERMIT THEIR DELIVERY. ETHIOPIA WAS NOTI-  
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FIED OF THIS DECISION AND PROPER EXPORT LICENSES WERE ISSUED UPON REQUEST FROM THE FREIGHT FORWARDER.

FOR ITS OWN REASONS, ETHIOPIA DID NOT MOVE WITH ALACRITY TO SHIP THE ITEMS. ONLY IN DECEMBER 1977 AND JANUARY OF THIS YEAR DID THE EPMG COMPLETE SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE FREIGHT FORWARDER. IN THE INTERIM, THE OGADEN CONFLICT HAD FLARED UP IN JULY/AUGUST. AS A RESULT, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED ITS DECISION OF LAST JUNE TO PERMIT SHIPMENT OF THESE ITEMS. IN LIGHT OF OUR DESIRE TO AVOID FUELING THE FLAMES OF THE OGADEN CONFLICT BY PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ANY OF THE PARTIES, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SUSPEND THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THE LETHAL MATERIAL INVOLVED, INCLUDING SPARE PARTS FOR LETHAL EQUIPMENT, UNTIL THE OGADEN CONFLICT HAS BEEN RESOLVED. WE ARE PERMITTING THE FREIGHT FORWARDER TO SHIP THE ITEMS WHICH ARE NON-LETHAL. THIS CONSISTS OF 23 TRUCKS WITH TRAILERS HAVING A VALUE OF NEARLY DOLS 700,000 AND SPARE PARTS FOR TRUCKS AND JEEPS. THESE ITEMS WERE SHIPPED FEBRUARY 21. THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS DECISION AND HAS INDICATED ITS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DESIRE TO AVOID PROVIDING ARMS TO

EITHER SIDE OF THE CONFLICT.

2. FOR ADDIS: YOU SHOULD GIVE COPY OF PRESS STATEMENT TO EPMG ASAP. YOU MAY STRESS THAT WE WANTED EPMG TO HAVE STATEMENT FROM US BEFORE THE NEWS IS RELEASED TO PRESS. AS THEY NO DOUBT KNOW, THE QUESTION HAS ARISEN OFTEN AT STATE DEPT NEWS BRIEFINGS.

3. FOR OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES: YOU SHOULD ALSO GIVE COPY OF PRESS STATEMENT TO YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT ASAP SO THEY FIND OUT OF SHIPMENT OF NON-LETHAL MATERIAL FROM US RATHER THAN PRESS. IN CONVEYING THIS INFORMATION TO SOMALIA AND ITS ARAB FRIENDS, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT IT REPRESENTS NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY OF EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE OGADEN CONFLICT. HOST COUNTRIES SHOULD FURTHER NOTE THAT WE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM SHIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA ALL WEAPONS, WEAPONS SYSTEMS OR SPARE PARTS FOR WEAPONS OR WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

4. STORY COULD BREAK AS EARLY AS 2/22 PM WASHINGTON TIME. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE045038  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** KPGARLAND:CJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780079-0222  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 4c102bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3518709  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHIPMENT OF MILITARY ITEMS TO ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, PCAT, ET, US, SO  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA ABU DHABI MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4c102bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014